

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

It is an object of the invention to reduce a load of an inquiry of a VCR about time information by a video server. For example, in response to an instruction from a host controller 105, a VCR 101 is controlled by a video server 100, a tape is reproduced by the VCR, and a video signal is outputted. The video signal is supplied to the server, encoded, and recorded. A common reference signal is supplied to the server and VCR. The server executes an encoding process while inquiring of the VCR about the time information. Upon inquiry of the VCR for the time information, the server detects a current state of the VCR and adjusts an inquiry interval of the time information in accordance with a detection result. The server presumes the time information in the VCR on the basis of a reference signal, thereby reducing the number of times of inquiry of the VCR for the time information by the server. Thus, a communication load between the server and the VCR is reduced.